

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Wally Herger and Senator Dianne Feinstein issued statements in response to final passage of legislation to improve management of federal lands in Northern California. The legislation allows for greater use of these lands by consolidating management of the Chappie-Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) jurisdiction. Previously, both BLM and the Forest Service managed land within the area, leading to conflicts and difficulties for users of the area. The legislation passed by unanimous consent in both the House and Senate and is expected to be signed into law by President Obama. Herger and Feinstein’s comments follow below:

Herger stated, “This legislation is the result of a collaborative and bipartisan effort to limit government bureaucracy and improve the management of federal lands in Northern California. It provides a commonsense solution to the bureaucratic problems that many North State residents have had dealing with two federal agencies in order to use federal lands. I’m pleased that passage of this legislation will allow for more efficient management of the Chappie-Shasta OHV Area and greater enjoyment of its users. This legislation represents a win-win for taxpayers and their enjoyment of our federal lands. I thank Senator Feinstein for her active support and assistance in accomplishing this goal. Her continued efforts on this and many other issues affecting Northern California are greatly appreciated.”

“I am pleased to have worked with Representative Herger to enact this sensible legislation, which will make it easier for people to use and enjoy the popular Chappie-Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle area. The bill would also provide for the management of some wilderness areas by the Forest Service in Northern California. This straightforward legislation improves upon the current arrangement, which involved overlapping federal jurisdictions and inefficient land management – at the expense of recreational visitors,” Senator Feinstein said. “I’m proud that the bill was developed in a collaborative manner, with input and agreement from Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, in conjunction with local off-highway-vehicle groups -- and enjoys the support of the local community and the County Board of Supervisors. I am delighted that this legislation will now be sent to the President for his signature, and is expected to become law.”